

Display of Election Posters Campaign Material within Property Owned, Adopted or Maintained by the Council

This policy applies to the following assets owned or maintained by The Highland Council:

- Roads (including footways, cycleways, verges and remote paths) either adopted by The Highland Council as the local Roads Authority or maintained by another Service such as Housing;
- Property owned, maintained or leased by The Highland Council such as parks, recreational areas, buildings, etc. (with the exclusion of homes leased by Council tenants).

This policy also applies to parks, open spaces, and Council buildings regardless of whether they are owned, leased, or adopted by The Highland Council. This policy does not apply to campaigning materials which Council housing tenants choose to put up in the windows of homes which they rent from the Council.

Road safety is of paramount concern. The Council will permit the display of election posters on roadside verges and lighting columns within the Council area in connection with any election but only if they comply with the conditions stipulated herein.

Prior to any posters being displayed, an email must be sent to ServiceSupport.Place@highland.gov.uk, for the attention of the Assistant Chief Executive of Place to:

- Seek permission to display campaign election posters,
- Agrees to indemnify the Council against any damages as a result of the display of such election posters.
- The relevant Council department where material is displayed in breach of this policy shall remove it as soon as practicable and then recharge the election agent or independent candidate to recover the costs in doing so.
- Agrees that posters, mounts, string and cable ties are removed within the 7 days following the election.

The following conditions must be met:

- Campaign posters must not be displayed prior to the date of announcement of an election.
- In any circumstances must not be located upon the central reserve of dual carriageways, refuge islands in the center of roadways, traffic signal posts, control boxes or upon roundabouts.
- Be located not to interfere with the visibility required for persons emerging from side roads or private accesses.
- Posters must be located at the rear of any verge provision and in any case no closer than 1.5 metres to the running surface of any carriageway.

- Must be so mounted that the poster and mount will not afford any resistance or damage to a vehicle coming into contact with them.
- Posters attached to lighting columns must be first fixed to card of adequate stiffness which in turn must be tied with string or cable ties to the road lighting column. The mounting height of the card must not be less than 2100 mm (7 ft) above the height of the adjoining footway.
- The area of any poster must not exceed 0.2 sq. m, and the maximum overall vertical or horizontal dimension must not exceed 500 mm.

For statutory reasons the Returning Officer cannot be involved in controlling the display of election posters. Any questions or problems concerning this policy will be dealt with by the Assistant Chief Executive of Place via ServiceSupport.Place@highland.gov.uk.

Transport Scotland has a policy which precludes the placing of election material within the trunk road boundaries and motorways. This is covered in all the Operating Company contracts to ensure a consistent approach across the country. This policy has been endorsed by Scottish Ministers.

